

NORTHERN
VIRGINIA SUN

MAY 3 1967

Allen-Scott Report

Other Cosmonauts May Have Died

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Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON — Other Soviet cosmonauts are believed to have died in an accident closely linked to the Komarov tragedy.

The unannounced second accident reportedly occurred when a huge booster missile blew up on the launching pad at Baikonur, Russia's test center in the remote plains of Kazakhstan, 1,200 miles southeast of Moscow.

Long-range listening devices of the National Security Agency monitored frantic messages from Baikonur telling of an explosion shortly after the launching of the ill-fated Soyuz I, which crashed killing Komarov.

At the time of the explosion, a manned spacecraft with several cosmonauts was being readied for launching to join Soyuz I in what Soviet diplomats had hinted would be a spectacular space venture.

Exactly what happened both on the ground and in space is still not wholly known to U.S. intelligence. However, through intercepted radio signals from Baikonur they learned of the unpublicized explosion, reports of casualties and of a temporary communications blackout at the space center.

Whether that failure, which could have affected the communications and control link between the space center and Soyuz I, had anything to do with the malfunctioning of Komarov's spacecraft has not yet been determined.

In addition to the NSA intercepts, a dispatch to the State Department from a U.S. military attaché in Moscow indicated at least three cosmonauts cannot be accounted for.

The message pointed out that three cosmonauts mentioned in Moscow reports as the likely crew for the second spacecraft did not attend the state funeral for Komarov although all others did.

If these cosmonauts were alive, intelligence authorities are convinced they would have been on hand because of the burial's national significance. Nothing has been said about the three missing cosmonauts sending condolences to Komarov's fam-

Also missing from the funeral was Airforce Lieutenant General Nikolai Manarin, chief of the cosmonaut training program. Before the Soyuz launch it was reported he was slated to take part in the experiment aboard one of the spacecraft.

In talking to members of the House and Senate Space Committees, NASA Administrator

James Webb confirmed that the Russians are withholding information about the space tragedy.

"They definitely are not telling all they know about this affair," Webb said. "However, until we can analyze all the data being gathered, I can't elaborate any further."

Asked by a House committee man whether the Russians had lost cosmonauts in the past, Webb replied:

"We believe they have. There have been ground accidents like our own."

As reported in this column in February, details of Russia's secret space fatalities are highlighted in a Central Intelligence Agency report prepared for the White House some time before the Cape Kennedy disaster that took the lives of the three U.S. astronauts.

In a statement published in the Soviet press last month, that escaped world notice, Airforce General Manarin in effect admitted one cosmonaut death. He attributed this to a "high parachute jump."

U.S. authorities are of the opinion this fatality was one of twelve in Soviet space accidents.

The U.S. has spent \$203,207,253 in strife-torn Dominican Republic since President Johnson sent troops there during the 1965 uprising.

The total, which includes \$43,221,394 in military expenses, was disclosed in a report Secretary Rusk sent to a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

Requested by Representative Armistead Selden Jr., D-Ala., chairman of the Latin American Affairs subcommittee, the accounting for the period April 24, 1965, through March 1, 1967, is as follows:

— "Economic Aid: Grants to Dominican government, \$122,200,000; development loans, \$14,500,000; technical assistance, \$13,153,000; surplus farm commodities, \$10,132,854.

— "Military Aid: Inter-American Peace Force, \$37,921,394; aid to Dominican Armed forces \$5,300,000."

In addition, the U.S. gave \$82,209,000 to the Dominican Republic before the uprising.

Despite this large-scale aid, the present government of President Joaquin Balaguer is threatened with another Castro-supported revolt.

That's the warning from Ambassador John Crimmins, who points out that many of the rebels who took part in the April 24, 1965, uprising are organizing and getting arms from Cuba.

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